

Randall Thompson (1899 – 1984) was an American composer, particularly noted for his choral works. He attended Harvard University, became assistant professor of music and choir director at Wellesley College, and received a doctorate in music from the University of Rochester's Eastman School of Music. He went on to teach at the Curtis Institute of Music, at the University of Virginia, and at Harvard University. He is particularly noted for his choral works. Leonard Bernstein was one of Thompson's students at Harvard.

Alleluia is a piece for unaccompanied SATB chorus by Randall Thompson. Composed over the first five days of July in 1940, it was given its world premiere on July 8 of that year at the Berkshire Music Center at Tanglewood under the direction of G. Wallace Woodworth. The work was written on a commission from Serge Koussevitzky, director of the Tanglewood Festival. Koussevitzky wanted a "fanfare" for voices to be performed at the opening exercises of the new Berkshire Music Center, and he asked Thompson to contribute such a piece. Instead of the joyous work expected of him, the composer produced a quiet and introspective piece. Thompson was inspired by the war in Europe, and the recent fall of France; given these events, he felt that to write a festive piece would be inappropriate. The text of the work is simple; it consists of the word "Alleluia" repeated over and over again. Thompson once wrote that the Alleluia is "a very sad piece. The word "Alleluia" has so many possible interpretations. The music in my particular Alleluia cannot be made to sound joyous. It is a slow, sad piece, and...here it is comparable to the Book of Job, where it is written, "The Lord gave and the Lord has taken away. Blessed be the name of the Lord." The piece has become Thompson's most popular work, and is frequently performed today

Dr. Michael Pratt has degrees in music education and music composition from The University of Toledo, The University of Michigan, and Boston University. He studied composition with Pulitzer Prize winning composers Ross Lee Finney and Leslie Bassett at The University of Michigan, and taught music in the public schools for many years in Michigan.

He has sung with The Toledo Choral Society, Toledo Symphony Chorale, Opera!Lenawee, and The University Musical Society Choral Union of The University of Michigan with whom he has performed with The Detroit Symphony Orchestra, The San Francisco Symphony, The Kirov Orchestra, The Russian National Orchestra, The Ann Arbor Symphony, The Lansing Symphony, The Grand Rapids Symphony, The Toledo Symphony, The Birmingham Symphony, The Gabrieli Consort, and The Tallis Scholars.

He has played tuba with The Toledo Symphony, Toledo Concert Band, Toledo Opera, University of Toledo Faculty Brass Quintet, Adrian Chamber Brass, Adrian College Faculty Brass Quintet, The Crosswell Opera House, The Adrian Symphony Orchestra and The Adrian City Band.

He has performed with many notable conductors, including, Valery Gergiev, Michael Tilson Thomas, Neeme Jarve, Mikhail Pletnev, Rafael Fruhbeck de Burgos, Leonard Slatkin, John Adams, Gennady Rozhdestvensky, Paul McCreech, Peter Phillips, Catherine Comet, Eric Kunzel, Margaret Hillis, Martin Katz, and John Finley Williamson.

Michael Pratt is a member of ASCAP.

Alleluia

Duration 5:00

Randall Thompson

Arr. Michael Pratt
for Brass Septet

Lento $\text{♩} = 60$

Musical score for measures 1-6 of Alleluia. The score is for a Brass Septet and includes the following parts: Trumpet in B \flat 1, Trumpet in B \flat 2, Trumpet in B \flat 3, Horn in F, Trombone, Euphonium, and Tuba. The key signature is B \flat major (two flats), and the time signature is 4/4. The tempo is Lento, with a quarter note equal to 60 beats per minute. The score begins with a 4/4 time signature, changes to 3/8 for measures 3 and 4, and returns to 4/4 for measures 5 and 6. The music features a variety of rhythmic patterns, including eighth and sixteenth notes, and rests. Dynamics include *mp* (mezzo-piano) and *mf* (mezzo-forte). The score is marked with measure numbers 1 through 6.

Musical score for measures 7-12 of Alleluia. The score continues from the previous page and includes the following parts: B \flat Tpt. 1, B \flat Tpt. 2, B \flat Tpt. 3, Hn., Tbn., Euph., and Tuba. The key signature remains B \flat major, and the time signature is 4/4. The tempo is Lento. The score features a variety of rhythmic patterns, including eighth and sixteenth notes, and rests. Dynamics include *mp* (mezzo-piano) and *mf* (mezzo-forte). The score is marked with measure numbers 7 through 12.